BAR HILL NEWS

February 2026 Issue 677

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WHEN FROM NOW UNTIL 28th MARCH 2026
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DATE: TUE 3RD MARCH 2026
TIME: 3:15 - 5:45 PM
VENUE: BAR HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL, GLADESIDE, BAR HILL, CAMBRIDGE, CB23 8DY

THIS MONTH: New Advice Drop-In for the Community Hub (Page 5 and 7), e-Waste update (Page 9), New Year Bin Schedule (Page 11), Childminders (Page 15), First Lego League (Page 24), Primary School/ PTA Update (Page 29), Saxon Park/ Skatepark Update (Page 30), and Cricket Club Quiz Night (Page 30)

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If you'd like to contact the BHCA then you can either;

- Write to us at **Parish Council Offices, Hanover Close, Bar Hill. CB23 8EH**
- Email the Chair of Trustees at **chair-of-trustees@barhill-ca.org**, or
- Call/ message/ WhatsApp **07814 871752**.

We meet monthly on the second Tuesday at 7:30 pm in the Fox. If you'd like an agenda please get in touch!

Opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Association. Anonymous letters will not be published. Names and addresses may be withheld.

There is no charge for Articles, What's On, For Sale or Lost and Found. These appear at the Editor's discretion.

All items should be submitted to **bhn-editor@barhill-ca.org**

See www.barhill-ca.org

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MAGGIE'S

Whether you can give your time, talent, share your story, or just want to hear about our opportunities, we'd love to hear from you! Email Hayley or Helen in the fundraising team and we'll be in touch: cambridge.fundraising@maggies.org

Help! We're Missing Something

Maybe it's an article by a group you support? A bit of local news? Or even details of an event? Let us know! Deadline for our February issue is **Thursday 12th February**.

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February 2026 Timetable

Every Monday, 10-12 (unless otherwise listed) in the Octagon (opposite Maple Surgery)
The Hub is for people of all ages as a place to gather & enjoy community!

2 February	Coffee Stop Foodbank Advice Sign-posting Chess, traditional & 5Aside versions	Health & Wellbeing 10.15 - 10.45
9 February		Carers Café 10.00 - 11.30
16 February		Health & Wellbeing 10.15 - 10.45
23 February		Evergreens 10.00 - 11.30 Meet a Parish Councillor 10.00 - 12.00

WHEN: Every Monday 10am – 12pm.

WHERE: The Octagon (opposite Maple Surgery), Bar Hill, CB23 8EH

WHAT: Our vision is to create a fairer and friendlier community, so everyone can thrive and knows where to turn to for warmth, welcome, friendship and support. The Hub is a busy gathering space, providing a warm, comfortable, welcoming space for our entire community. Come along and join us, we look forward to seeing you!

Coffee Stop: Pop in for a coffee, a piece of delicious home-made cake and a chat with friends, old and new!

Foodbank: No need for any vouchers. If you are struggling financially, drop by and let us help you, available between 10am and 11.30am.

NEW SERVICE: HUB ADVICE DROP-IN: Available from 10.00 - 11.30 am on Mondays. Please see separate entry in the Bar Hill News for more information about this service.

Evergreens: a safe space for those with memory loss to enjoy: Conversation, Connection, Celebration. Accompanied by a carer, friend or family member. When: usually 4th Monday of each month.

Health & Wellbeing: On the 1st & 3rd Monday, take advantage of some exercise guidance from our experienced coach (starting at 10.15am).

Carers Café: On the 2nd Monday of the month, providing support for any carers in the village, even if you are not a patient of Maple Surgery.

Meet a Parish Councillor: you can meet one of our Parish Councillors to discuss any issues within our village, between 10am and 12pm on the 4th Monday of the month. Just look for the sign within the Coffee Stop.

Traditional & 5Aside Chess (within the Coffee Stop): A great way to connect and start a conversation with people happy to teach you this wonderful game. Come along and join us for refreshments and a chat!

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LETTERS, NOTICES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please send your letters & notices to **bhn-editor@barhill-ca.org**. Thank you!

Bar Hill Indoor Bowls Club

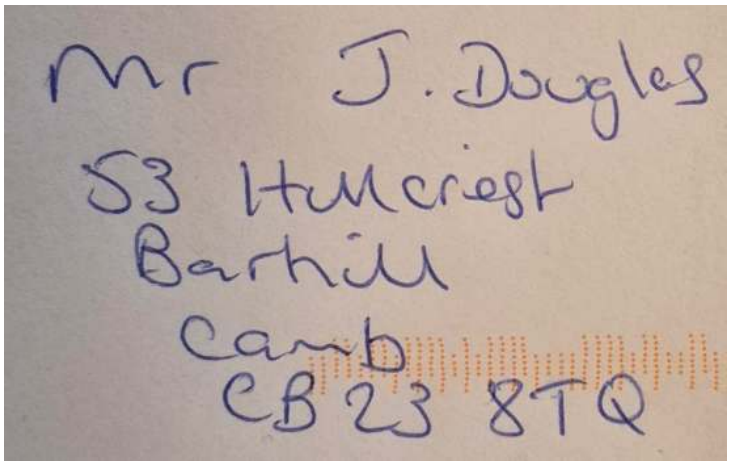
We meet in the school on Friday evenings during term time only from 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm with a 1/2 hour break for coffee. We are a very friendly group and we would love to have some new members. It doesn't matter if you have never played before just come along and join us one Friday, the cost is £3 per week but the 1st week is free.
If you would like more information please contact me on **01954 204171 / 07847 327709** or **barbara.page@live.co.uk**

Bar Hill Catholic Mass

Mass will be held in Bar Hill Church at 6pm on Saturdays. Our services are open to all and everyone is very welcome to attend. If you have any queries please call Bunty Waters **07734 690580**. Our local parish priest is Father Adrian Gates, from OLEM, Ditton; he is also the Hospital Chaplain - **07842 190882**.
Contact Bunty Waters for more info.

Dear Residents,

Does anyone recognise this hand-writing?



If so please get in touch!

BHN Editor

Dear Residents,

Cambridgeshire County Council is reviewing its current contract for an Information & Advice Service for older adults (55+). We would like to know what is important to you, your family member, or the person you care for when looking for Information & Advice.

Your responses will help us to understand if there are any gaps or areas for improvement in the service.

Paper copies are available by contacting **care.together@cambridgeshire.gov.uk**.
The online link to the survey is here; **https://forms.office.com/e/RjX60jPwLx**

The survey is available until 12th February.

Adults, Health & Commissioning

Cambridgeshire County Council

NEW SERVICE: HUB ADVICE DROP-IN:

Having retired from Citizens Advice, I am now offering a Drop-In service in the Hub on Monday mornings (10-11.30).

This will largely be sign-posting on a first come, first served basis and will take place in the main Octagon room.

If you would like to see me, grab yourself a hot drink and come and have a chat or please speak to any of the Hub team who will be wearing a lanyard and can point you in my direction.

Whether you need advice on Debt, Consumer, Legal, Family, Benefits, Employment, etc, I'm happy to listen and guide.

Warmly,

Kevin Potts

The deadline for submissions is the second Thursday of the month.
Please send your article to **bhn-editor@barhill-ca.org** (PDF, Word, Pages, etc)

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Cambridgeshire Deaf Association 01223 416141 or for enquiries & volunteering opportunities.

Over Memory Café

inviting all people living with memory loss, their families and carers, to join us for Music, Refreshments and Fun.

Saturday, February 28
Saturday, March 28
Saturday, April 25

from 10 am to 12 noon

at The Over Day Centre, 1 Drings Close, Over CB24 5N
wheelchair accessible, free parking available

please visit https://www.facebook.com/OverMemoryCafe/

Saturday, February 14
Saturday, March 14
Saturday, April 11

Willingham Memory Box Café

Invites people living with memory loss (from any cause) and their carers to join us for Music, Company, Chat, Refreshments and Fun

from 10 am to 12 noon

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or vist our facebook page www.facebook.com/WillinghamMemoryBoxCafe/

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E-Waste Recycling Push

Recycling large household appliances has become routine in the UK, but the disposal of small electrical items is emerging as a growing environmental challenge. These products include low-cost devices such as headphones, electric toothbrushes and handheld fans, many of which are designed with short lifespans.

According to recycling charity Material Focus, 1.14 billion items were purchased in the UK in the past year, with around half ending up in landfill rather than being recycled. These items contain materials that could be recovered and reused.

Christmas always brings a surge in new gadgets (as well as a surge in "redundant" gadgets for disposal!) And this year residents are being encouraged to recycle responsibly rather than disposing of it at home. We are lucky in that small electrical items can be recycled at local recycling centres - the nearest of which is in the car-park at Tesco - helping to reduce electronic waste sent to landfill.

Branches of Curry's also accept small to medium-sized electrical items for recycling - even if the product wasn't purchased there.

Bar Hill Ladies Book Club

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 10th February at the Social Club, time 19.30. This month's book is ***The Painter's Daughter, written by Emily Howes.***

We are a friendly group of ladies who love to read & share our opinions & thoughts.

Please join us, you will be so welcome.

Please email Julie for more information **julie45172@outlook.com**.

Helping Loved Ones Stay Well

Taking time to understand an older person's day-to-day needs can make a real difference to their wellbeing. Start with the basics: who their GP is, what medication they rely on, and when they last had a health review. People aged 75 and over are entitled to a free annual NHS health check, and it's also helpful to know whether they regularly see a dentist and optician. These small details can prevent problems from being overlooked.

It's equally important to think ahead about legal and financial matters. An up-to-date will and a Lasting Power of Attorney provide reassurance for everyone involved. If future care costs are a concern, advice from a later-life financial specialist can help families plan with confidence. Some people may also qualify for Attendance Allowance or local authority support.

Safety at home is another key consideration. Simple checks - such as removing trip hazards and making sure smoke and carbon monoxide alarms work properly - can significantly reduce risk.

Cambridgeshire fire service offers free home safety visits. You can find out if you or a family member or friend are likely to be eligible for a free home fire safety check by calling the automated message line on **0800 917 9994** and leave a message including the person's name, address and daytime phone number to receive a call back.

Finally, gentle conversations about future care preferences or funeral wishes, held early, can ease pressure later. Organisations such as **Age UK** offer clear, free guidance on health, care, housing, and benefits: **ageuk.org.uk** or by calling **0800 055 6112.**

Planning ahead helps loved ones remain safe, independent, and supported for as long as possible.

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

We meet in the Octagon on the 4th Thursday of the Month, at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Dates/ Topics for the 2026 meetings will be; *February 26th Normal meeting with a quiz, cheese and snacks and a raffle, April 23rd A speaker TBC, June 25th Summer social event, July 11th Fete table, August 27th Normal meeting with quiz, cheese and snacks and a raffle, and AGM October 22nd.*

During 2025 we had a fish and chip supper, took part in the Village Fete and organised the Poppy Appeal.

If you are interested in joining or would like further information or help, please contact either Wendy Arrowsmith on **01954 781381** or Malcolm Cox on **01953 488657**.

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DATE (*Thursday unless notified*)	BLACK BIN	BLUE BIN	GREEN BIN
5th February		✔	✔
12th February	✔		
19th February		✔ only	***No***
26th February	✔		
5th March		✔	✔
12th March	✔		
19th March		✔	✔

You can also add Bin Collection dates to your mobile/ tablet computer for automatic reminders!

This website address will take you to the correct page on the Greater Cambridge website.

www.greatercambridgewaste.org/find-your-household-bin-collection-day

Dear Editor, RE: Puzzle Solutions

Happy New Year!

The solution to last month's puzzle is;

- **Across** - 1.excellent. 6. guatemala. 7.unanimous. 10.statement.
- **Down** - 1.egg cups. 2.cha. 3.leeside. 4.era. 5.transit. 8.aka. 9.ore.

This month's puzzle can be found on Page 20. Hope you enjoy it!

Yours,

Keith Morris

Bar Hill HAPPY HOURS Club

The Bar Hill Happy Hours club meets in the main bar area of the Bar Hill Sports and Social Club between 2 and 4pm on Friday afternoons for tea/coffee and cakes, getting together with friends, fun and games. All of this for only £2 per person. The bar is open if you want something extra.

Coming in February
6th Feb Bingo and a quiz
13th Feb Valentine?Chinese New Year
20th Feb Bingo and a quiz
27th Feb St David's day-Welsh theme
for further Information please contact Anne Plumb | **07790 306922** | **anne@rwp10.plus.com**

8 o'clock club

The club is a women's group and we meet in the school on the 1st Thursday of the month at 7.30 pm. *The 1st meeting of 2026 will be on Thursday 5 February when our speaker will talk about Holt Island in St Ives.*

Our fee is £15 per year to join and then we make a charge at each meeting to cover the cost of refreshments and a raffle.

We welcome new members to the club. If you would like to join please come along to one of our meetings or phone Barbara **204171** (**07847 327709**) Adela **204265** or Ann **204687**

Dear Editor,

The Royal British Legion held their Christmas lunch on 7th January at The Fox. This was a very enjoyable & friendly occasion & great start to the New Year.

The Legion meets several times a year & welcome new members, especially if you have served in any of the services.

Bunty Waters

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COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Edna Murphy - **Edna.Murphy@cambridgeshire.gov.uk**
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Cambridgeshire County Council

County Council Budget

The county council expenditure in 2026-27 is expected to be about £1,244 m. About half the income for the council comes from council tax (£606m), with some income coming from grants and charges (£166m). Funding for schools makes up the rest (£472m).

There is much more that we would like to do, but the council's income is not increasing as fast as the demand for its services, nor as fast as some costs are rising. However, we have worked hard to identify efficiencies and improvements which help us to do more in certain areas.

For example in relation to funding adult social care services, the budget proposals being considered allow for an increase in some areas, for example:

- £14.7m more for local care providers, to meet pay and inflation impacts
- £1.9 m more to meet demand for care and support amongst older people accessing both domiciliary and residential care
- £4.9 m more to help meet the rising levels of need amongst people with a learning disability
- £2.1 m more for working age and older people with mental health needs

A very important area for the county council is supporting children and young people. In 2026-27 the budget will be £202 m, an increase of £24.4 m. This will support continued investment in the wide range of services delivered and commissioned by the council, including a proposed additional:

- £10.4 m more for children who become looked after
- £3.8 m more to support home to school transport services.

An area that many residents will be concerned about is improving highways maintenance. Normally this is something that is funded by Government, but for years this funding hasn't been enough and the highways infrastructure has been in decline. We have taken steps to invest additional funds to try to reverse the decline in our roads and be more responsive in repairing potholes for example. The budget proposals enable us to continue to have an increased investment in highways maintenance.

The final proposals will be debated and voted on at Full Council on 10 February, starting at 10.30am. You can watch it on Youtube!

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Bar Hill Childminders

Bar Hill Childminders are all graded 'Good' on their latest inspections, are fully insured and hold Paediatric First Aid and Safeguarding training. We are registered with Ofsted and have enhanced CRB checks. We offer quality, caring, home from home care with a wide range of exciting experiences for the children in our care, both in our homes and in the local community.

We regularly go on walks, outings and attend local groups to help the children socialise. We find having a wide range of ages benefits all the children in our care, it helps the younger children's confidence and encourages the older children to be patient and understanding with the younger children, helping them learn and progress.

We accept all Government funding for eligible parents and the Government Tax Free Childcare payments.

As we are busy during the day with the children, please text us your enquiry with details of your requirements and we will contact you as soon as possible with our up to date availability and hourly rates.

We are excited to announce that we have a new Childminder setting up in Bar Hill, Eszter passed her registration in January and will be open from 2nd February.

Eszter Horwood – **07783 436921** – ages 6 months upwards. Term time only and all year care offered. Current availability is a permanent space on Thursday and Friday 8-5 and a temporary space from Feb to end of Sept.

Kirsten - **07906 218070** – ages 6 months upwards. Term time only and all year round care offered. No spaces available.

Jacky – **07718 447998** – ages 6 months upwards. Term time only and all year round care offered. Current availability - wrap around spaces for school aged children available now. Monday – Thursday for an under 5 from Sept 2026.

We have been exploring over the Christmas holidays and been busy in the New Year to. We searched for reindeer in Wandlebury Woods and snowmen at Anglesey Abbey. We enjoyed looking at all the Christmas decorations in garden centres and at Anglesey Abbey and Wimpole Hall, we made our own decorations to share with our families and made advent calendars. At our end of term Christmas party we had fun with some party food and a visit from Parafunalia for some festive singing and dancing. We also supported the school by donating around 50 pairs of pyjamas for the charity Children's Hospital Pyjamas, thank you to all our families for helping us to achieve this.

During January and February we will be looking at and learning about winter and arctic animals, seeing how big we are compared to an Emperor penguin and taking part in the Big Garden Birdwatch. We will also be exploring emotions and the people we love around Valentines Day and exploring Lunar New Year too, this year is the Year of the Horse. We will be finding out which animal was the year we were born.

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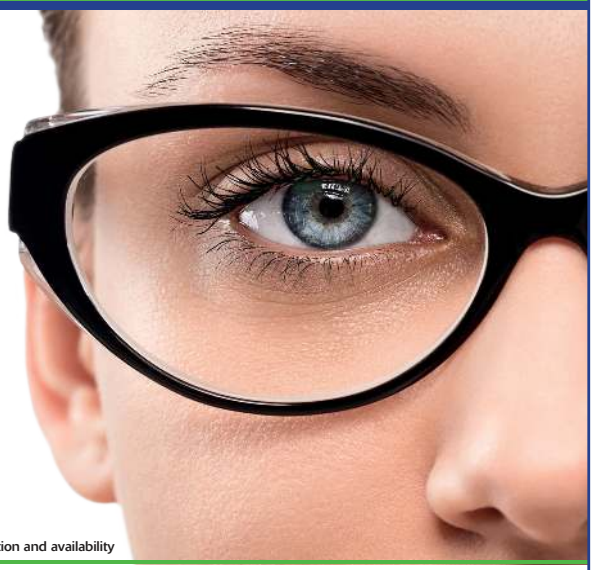

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BAR HILL DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Bunty Waters - bunty.waters@scambs.gov.uk
01954 201421/ 07734 690580

IMPROVEMENT GRANT FOR BAR HILL ALLOTMENTS

An improvement Grant for Bar Hill Allotments has been approved, to allow them to provide paths, fencing and metal dip tanks. This will be enormous assistance to the users of the allotments. Our area is lacking in water and this will make the plots more productive by providing water and other facilities. This is greatly welcome well done to them.

FOOTPATH RECONSTRUCTION TO START ON 2 FEBRUARY FROM LITTLE MEADOW

There is a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTRO) for works to be carried out on the pathways by CCC. This has long been asked for by me and the Parish Council, Bar Hill has been so neglected and our pathways in such a poor condition. Importantly, it should make them safer for those on mobility scooters and elderly folk.

NEW FOOD WASTE SERVICE

Weekly collections of food waste will begin in parts of South Cambridgeshire in January – rolling out collections to all households by the end of 2026.

The service will be extended across Greater Cambridge in phases throughout next year. All households will receive a letter with full details a few weeks before the service begins in their area to help ensure they are prepared.

Before their new collections begin, households will receive a new outdoor caddy to put out for collection at the kerbside with their wheelie bins each week, as well as a smaller indoor caddy to collect food waste in the kitchen. Most flats will share an outdoor wheelie bin in their bin store to empty their indoor caddy into. The weekly food waste collections will take place on residents' usual bin days.

1st BAR HILL SCOUT GROUP

Bar Hill Scout Group was founded over 50 years ago and over the years it has provided the young people of our village with the opportunity to take part in many activities including camping, hiking, canoeing, trips abroad and much more.

The training programme helps the young people to look after themselves and each other and best of all have FUN.

The group has four sections Squirrels age 4 to 6, Beavers age 6 to 8, Cubs ages 8 to 10.5 and Scouts 10.5 to 14.5

All sections are flourishing with a full programme of activities .

Helping the adults run each section are a group of young leaders aged 15 to 18 , whose help and enthusiasm is much appreciated .

If you would like to get involved as an assistant leader with or without experience in any section please contact Nathen our lead volunteer at info@barhillscouts.org.uk who will be happy to answer any questions .

The Squirrel dray needs extra help at the moment to reduce the waiting list, helping with this section is always fun with the youngsters.

To contact Neighbourhood watch please email **nhwinbarhill@yahoo.co.uk**

To keep up to date on the latest developments please join us on facebook: **bit.ly/FBBarHillNHW** (or search for "Bar hill NHW")

Do you live in the Town of Bar Hill and have difficulty getting out and about by public transport? Would you like to attend classes, medical appointments, do your supermarket shop or simply visit family and friends independently?

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*Some areas outside of our boundaries are excluded from our service

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Registered Charity No. 1209296
http://www.barhillpreschoolcio.co.uk

01954 782892 | enquiries@barhillpreschool.co.uk
www.barhillpreschoolcio.co.uk

Wishing everyone a very Happy New Year. Returning from Christmas holiday our New Year started and once again, the Pre School opened its doors to welcome all children including the new families starting this term. Spring term has started with New Year activities and excited conversations about the Christmas holidays and fun we had with our families. We have been exploring the new year number "2026" by participating in related activities around this number, like pencil control exercises featuring 2026 patterns and firework patterns.
We have been encouraging children to look after their teeth especially after all those delicious festive foods they had during the holidays. For that, part of our play area was transformed into a dentist's surgery where children could learn and discover the topic.

With the early part of January being really cold we took the opportunity to explore the frozen ice by painting it and mixing colours.

Older children have been introduced to the phonic sounds 's, a, t, i, p, n.

We offer places to children the term after they are two years old. We accept 2,3,4 year old funding and also are part of the national tax savings childcare scheme. See our website www.barhillpreschoolcio.co.uk for more details or call 01954 782892 for an application form.

Bar Hill News - Digital Copy

On (or around) the 1st of the month we send out a link (or PDF depending on size!) to this month's digital copy.

If you'd like to receive it please complete this form.

https://bit.ly/bhn-digital

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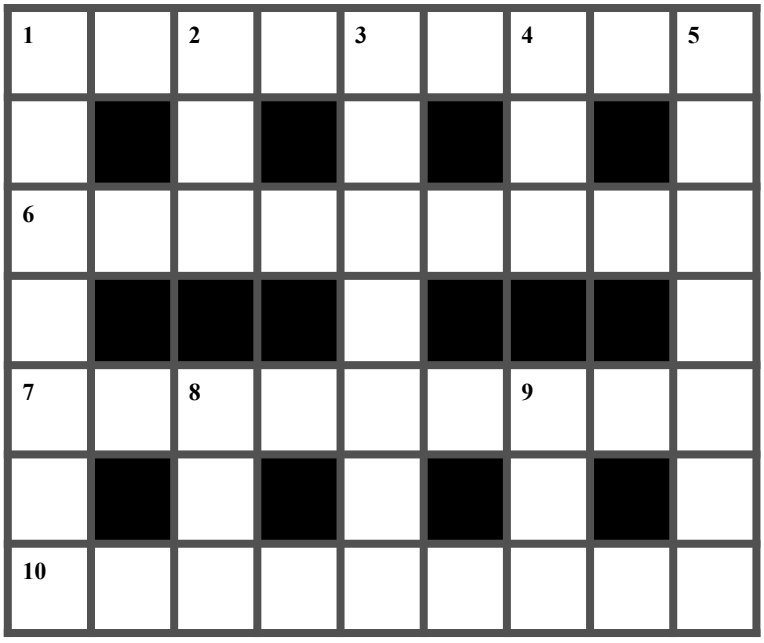

PUZZLE for FEBRUARY 2026

Across - 1.aquatic reptile. 6.organise differently. 7.song by W. Barnes & R. Vaughan Williams 6&3. 10.weed of the daisy family. **Down** - 1.type of plastic. 2.meadow. 3.W. B. Yeats- Down by the Sally ?. 4.Lightish brown. 5.do again. 8.nothing. 9.star sign.

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UNDER THE LIGHTS

The early sunsets have meant that floodlit play has become the norm for our evening sessions, and we've brought forward to 5pm the start time for the pickleball evening Club time. We continue to play in the cold weather, so long as it's safe under foot.

TAKE CARE…

We are currently seeking funding to resurface our ageing courts as the surface is breaking up in places leaving loose gravel on the surface. So anyone playing should take care, and particularly check that the courts are suitable for play after rain.

OCCASIONAL PAY & PLAY GAMES

You can book a pay & play game using the tennis nets and your own equipment. Go to **https://barhilltennisclub.co.uk/book**.

CLUB TIMES

Our Adult Club nights for social tennis are Tuesdays and Thursdays starting at 6.30pm.

Our Adult Club times for pickleball are Monday evenings starting at 5.00pm, and Friday mornings at 10.00am.

HALF YEAR NOW AVAILABLE

Half-year club membership runs from September to March and is now available from the website. Membership covers both tennis and pickleball and you can be part of the WhatsApp groups for either or both sports which give info about what's happening. You can apply online on the website.

Paul Chubbuck
chair@barhilltennisclub.co.uk

Richard Lewney
secretary@barhilltennisclub.co.uk

Ian Foot
treasurer@barhilltennisclub.co.uk

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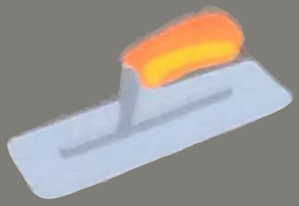

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Helping Hedgehogs in February

February is one of the most challenging and dangerous months for hedgehogs. Although many people assume winter is over for wildlife by now, hedgehogs are often still hibernating — and those that wake early can struggle to survive.

Mild spells can cause hedgehogs to emerge from hibernation in search of food and water. Sadly, natural food sources such as insects and beetles are extremely scarce at this time of year, leaving hedgehogs vulnerable to starvation, dehydration, and exhaustion.

What to do …

A hedgehog seen out during the day in February is often a sign that something is wrong. They may be underweight, unwell, or unable to continue hibernation without help.

You can help by:

- Providing meat-based cat or dog food (not fish-flavoured)
- Leaving out a shallow bowl of fresh water
- Offering dry kitten biscuits for extra energy
- Placing food in a quiet, sheltered area

Never give hedgehogs milk or bread, as these can cause serious illness because they are lactose intolerant.

Creating Safe Spaces

If possible, leave piles of leaves, logs, or compost undisturbed until spring, as hedgehogs may still be sleeping inside. Avoid lighting fires or clearing garden debris without checking first.

Seeking Help

If a hedgehog appears weak, injured, very underweight, or is wandering in daylight, it will need professional care.

A little kindness in February can make the difference between life and death for these much-loved animals. By offering food, water, and understanding, we can help hedgehogs survive the hardest weeks of winter and reach spring safely.

For help and advice contact : Liz Dams - **07912 988898** / Shepreth Hedgehog Hospital - **07947 361187**

Wildlife-Friendly Gardening

February is a quiet but crucial time for wildlife in our gardens. Many creatures, like hedgehogs, birds, and insects, are still hibernating, nesting, or searching for scarce food. Even small changes now can make a huge difference.

Tips for February-friendly gardens:

- Leave wild areas undisturbed: piles of leaves, logs, and long grass provide shelter for hibernating hedgehogs and insects.
- Avoid pesticides and chemicals: insects are already scarce, and these poisons reduce the food available for birds and small mammals.
- Provide water: a shallow dish or bird bath helps thirsty wildlife during dry spells or icy nights.
- Check before tidying: hedgehogs and other creatures may be hiding in compost heaps or leaf piles.
- Plant early bloomers: snowdrops, hellebores, and winter-flowering shrubs give insects an early nectar source.

By thinking ahead and keeping your garden a safe, chemical-free refuge, you can help wildlife survive the last stretch of winter and welcome spring safely.

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FIRST LEGO LEAGUE

We are back after Christmas *(when we have all been building up the Lego sets that Santa brought us*), and the Children are straight back into activity with some programming their robots to complete the various missions they have chosen, whilst others have been actively working on their team's T-Shirt designs. In our next session they will begin tackling the tricky project work, which they will devise solutions to a problem that they will present on our big **Final Day at the Village Hall on 7th March**, so keep the date free and come along to support all the children in their competitions.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR PEOPLE TO ACT AS REFEREES FOR FINALS DAY, SO IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE A PART OF OUR TEAM, GET IN TOUCH. *Full Training will be provided*

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Bar Hill Day Nursery and Out of School Club

www.buttercupschildcareltd.co.uk

Bar Hill Day Nursery is based in Gladeside, Bar Hill. We are open 7.30am – 6pm, Monday to Friday, 50 weeks per year. We have spaces year-round or term-time for children aged 4 months to 4 years. Please contact the Nursery for more information or to arrange a visit. **Phone: 01954 488081 Email: info@buttercupschildcareltd.co.uk**

Bar Hill Out of School Club is based in the building next to Bar Hill Primary School. We offer Before and After School care and Holiday Club for Primary aged children. We are open 7.30am – 8.45am, 3pm – 6pm Monday to Friday and 8am – 6pm during school holidays. For more information or to make a booking please contact the Out of School Club: **Phone 01954 200814 Email: oosc@buttercupschildcareltd.co.uk**

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Bar Hill Village Hall

The large Main Hall has multi-purpose vinyl flooring, making it flexible for all types of events. There is a kitchen alongside the Hall with a serving hatch, making it useful for self-catering at parties, discos and the like. The licensed bar can be booked on request and will be serviced by the Sports and Social Club. The Hall opens out onto a large patio area that is ideal for external activities or a spill-over for internal events and has two bolted gates that lead off the premises.

There is also a Meeting Room, with its own independent access and great for meetings of up to 10 people.

The Village Hall is managed as a registered charity (number 1002579). To book, please visit our web site **barhillvillagehall.com** and email **enquiries@barhillvillagehall.com** to confirm arrangements.

Alternatively, call **01954 782414** and leave a message. We aim to return calls within 24hours (Monday to Friday).

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When: 4th Monday each month, 10 – 11.30 am

What: Come and enjoy coffee, cake and a chat. There are themed activities or crafts designed to promote memories & conversation, ending with a short session of seated exercise.

Find out more: 01954 206 120 (Centre Manager), ask at the surgery or pop into the Hub any Monday

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Our next in person stalls are at;

- Waterbeach Community Market on 15th February 10am to 3pm at The Old Barracks
- Bar Hill Community Market on Saturday 28th March 10am to 1pm in the Octagon

New members are always welcome, whether to contribute financially, to join our team of crafters, join our committee, provide transport for our volunteers or display a small selection of our wares. If you would like to donate some of your spare time check out our website's volunteering page for some ideas.

Thank you for your continued support and we wish you all the very best for 2026.

Avril Williams | **07493 692010**

and Jo Hall | **01954 780304**

You can purchase online from our shop;

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IAN SOLLOM MP NEWSLETTER

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Looking Ahead in 2026

Looking to the coming year, there is much to plan for – both across St Neots and Mid Cambridgeshire and in Parliament. Progress on legislation introduced last year continues, and we are expecting a range of new bills to be introduced soon, which, as always, my Liberal Democrat colleagues and I will be working hard to scrutinise.

Speaking to residents on their doorsteps during the Christmas period, as is so often the case, healthcare was one of the topics most frequently raised with me. The Government's 10 Year Health Plan was a step in the right direction to fix our NHS – but these plans must translate into real change for people in 2026. This year, I will be continuing to push for our local GPs, hospitals, pharmacies and dentists to receive the support they need to improve services in our community and put healthcare back into the hands of local people.

Following on from my campaign to protect palliative care beds at Arthur Rank Hospice last year, I will be continuing to put pressure on the Government to take real action on this. We heard in January that £25m in capital funding would be given to hospices across the country, but given that Arthur Rank is facing a deficit of almost £1m -- and these are running costs, not capital costs -- this new funding will be nowhere near enough to guarantee the sustainability of such services for years to come.

We are also expecting the Government to announce reforms to special education needs and disability (SEND) provision, news of which I know has been a significant concern for many local parents. The current system is not working, but any reform must be rooted in children's and parents' needs, not in cost-cutting. The drip-feeding of information that we have seen over the past year is unacceptable, and the Government must come forward urgently to clarify their plans so that SEND families have the clarity they deserve.

Much the same can be said for the changes to Personal Independence Payments (PIP) that the Government proposed last year. I am working to press the Department for Work and Pensions to work closely alongside those with real lived experience of disability before making any changes that might cause them harm.

Across the constituency, I am looking forward to continuing to hold my weekly surgeries, where I meet with residents to hear about the issues important to them and see where I might be able to support them with personal issues. I am pleased that I was able to help so many constituents last year, from smaller wins like getting incorrect parking fines refunded through to life-changing actions like securing new housing for someone who has been living for years in mould and disrepair. Of course there is much more work to be done, and I will continue to listen to, and stand up for, my constituents throughout 2026.

If you would like to contact me, please email **ian.sollom.mp@parliament.uk**, visit my website **www.iansollom.org**, or alternatively you can follow me on X: @IanSollom, Facebook **www.facebook.com/IanFSollom** or Instagram **www.instagram.com/iansollom**

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How can get I help from Cambridge REMAP?

- If you are struggling with a physical task due to a disability, get in touch.
- REMAP engineers often work with health professionals, such as OTs and Physios, but Carers and individuals can also contact REMAP directly (details below).
- Our service is provided free of charge

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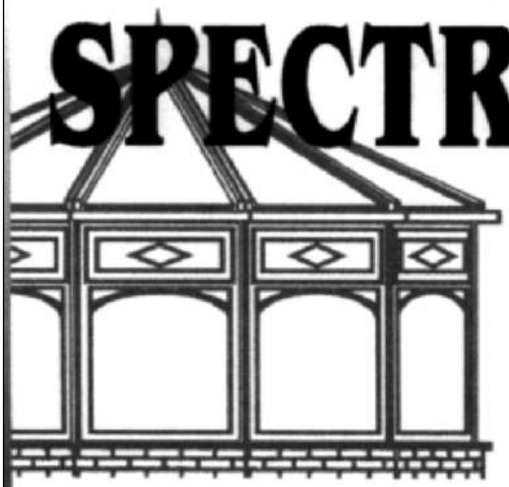

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Bar Hill Primary School

Meridian Trust

'Buy a Book' Campaign

As part of their work to create a lasting legacy of their time at Bar Hill Primary, our Year 6 librarians are launching a 'Buy a Book' campaign.

They have created an Amazon Wishlist of children's books, all of which are prize winners in recent book awards or highly recommended by educators.

They say, "Please buy a book and help us re-stock our library with exciting adventures! We'll label your gift to say who made the donation and encourage our library visitors to read it."

If you'd like to buy a book for our library, please visit our Wishlist here;

https://amzn.eu/cVwvYfw

Please select **BHPS Finance** at checkout as the delivery address.

Our Year 6's will then label your books when they arrive at school and display them in our 'New in this Week' section.

A big thank you from myself and our Year 6's - Mrs Worgan

Thank you to our PTA

We are incredibly grateful to our fantastic PTA for all their hard work and fundraising efforts last term. Their support has made so many memorable experiences possible for our children.

Back in October, Reception and KS1 pupils enjoyed a delightful Teddy Bears' Picnic, while KS2 took part in an inspiring Poetry Workshop. November brought an exciting BMX Workshop for Year 5, which was a real highlight!

In December, it was wonderful to see so many families at Santa's Grotto – what a magical and successful event!

This last week of term was full of festive cheer, with children enjoying crackers alongside their Christmas lunch and a fabulous performance of

Little Red Riding Hood on the last day of term. All of these special moments were made possible thanks to the PTA's amazing fundraising.

Thank you for helping us create such joyful experiences for our school community!

Santa Dash!

It was fantastic to see the whole school taking part in our 3km run in December.

Congratulations to the following children who finished first in their houses: Jarman: Henry (Year 4), Hazel: Vejas (Year 4), Grant: Luca (Year 3), and Peacock: Alban (Year 5).

The run is about resilience, encouragement, and kindness - not just speed and stamina. For that reason, a special mention goes to Willow, Alban, Alice, Ffion, Hattie, Junior, Alex Z, and Dornika for showing determination, support, and understanding throughout the run. Well done to everyone for your incredible effort!

SAXON PARK UPDATE
February 2026

Consultation Event: **3.15 pm on Tuesday, 3rd March @ Bar Hill Primary School**.

Maverick Skateparks will be coming to Bar Hill to run a community skatepark design session, and everyone is invited to take part!

This is a chance for local residents to have a real say in what the new skatepark will look like. Whether you skate, scoot, BMX, watch from the sidelines, or just care about facilities for young people in the village, your input is welcome.

The session will be informal and practical, with the Maverick Skateparks design team on hand to listen to ideas, answer questions, and talk through what's possible. You'll be able to comment on things like the layout, the types of features included, accessibility, and how the space will be used safely by different age groups.

SCAN ME

All ages are welcome - young people, parents, and anyone interested in the project. If you'd like to help shape a skatepark that works for Bar Hill now and in the future, please come along and get involved.

If you can't make the event and would like to complete the consultation online then you can either scan the QR code above or visit;

maverickskateparks.co.uk/barhill.

SAXON PARK

Bar Hill Cricket Club

We may not play cricket during the winter, but we don't go completely into hibernation – as shown by our upcoming fundraising quiz night at the Sports & Social Club.

All are welcome to the event, which is on Saturday 7 February, with registration from 7pm.

No particular knowledge is needed – it's a mixed bag with something for everyone, prizes to be won and a raffle to boot.

We're also planning our winter and spring training sessions, starting with indoor nets before we move back onto the village green, as we prepare to play at a higher level next season after our title win last summer.

If you are interested in playing, or getting involved in the club some other way, get in touch via info@barhillcricket.org.uk or on the number below, or follow all the latest in the Bar Hill News and on our website at barhillcricket.org.uk or on our Facebook page.

Paul Stimpson

201212 | info@barhillcricket.org

QUIZ NIGHT
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BAR HILL PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Office, Hanover Close, Bar Hill. CB23 8EH
Chairperson: **bunty.waters@barhill-pc.gov.uk**

Trees

Our annual tree works are now ongoing. Residents should see contractors around the village.

You may have noticed that the poplar trees in the horseshoe area have been removed. The Parish Council is always reluctant to remove trees, but unfortunately, these trees were diseased and suffering from drought stress. Because the Horseshoe is a popular and well-used area, removing these trees was important to ensure everyone's safety.

The Parish Council will ensure that any replacement planting is carefully considered to maintain the character and beauty of the area for years to come.

Update on Rat Issues in Bar Hill

Tesco have started work to address the rat issues that appear to be coming from Tesco-owned land. More bait boxes have been laid and tidying of the area including litter picking has begun.

Thanks to those who have raised concerns.

Play Park

Please can adults NOT use the play equipment in the new play park this is to stop equipment breaking and wearing.

Please Keep Vegetation Trimmed

Residents are asked to please check any vegetation growing from your property onto public paths. Overhanging branches, shrubs, and hedges can make footpaths narrow, unsafe, or difficult to access, especially for pushchairs, wheelchairs, and mobility scooters.

If you have plants or hedges that are starting to encroach onto a walkway, please give them a trim to help keep our pathways safe and easy for everyone to use.

Thanks for doing your part to keep Bar Hill tidy and accessible.

Fly Tipping

Please can residents not Fly Tip their rubbish as this involves a considerable cost (£120) to residents and comes out of the precept. If you would like to give away free items, please put them within your property boundary and not on public/private land. If you would like to report fly tipping, please go to https://www.scambs.gov.uk/streets/fly-tipping

Litter Picking

A big thank you to all those that take time to pick litter around the village. If anyone would like a bag & litter picker to pick when they have time, please contact the Clerk on **01954 780456** or **clerk@barhill-pc.gov.uk** to collect from the PC office.

Streetlights

If you see a streetlight that is not working, please report to https://lightingcambridgeshire.com/report-a-fault/

If you see anything that causes concern for safety in and around the Village, for example electric scooters on pathways, please call 101and report it.

MEETING DATES

Environment and Amenities Committee - 4 February 2026 - 7pm in the Parish Council Office

Full Council - 19 February 2026 - 7pm in the Parish Council Office

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to book your place or for more information visit our website
www.overdaycentre.co.uk/whats-on/saturday-lunch-club/
by email: saturdaylunchclub@overdaycentre.co.uk
or please call: 01954 231807 or 07710 694900

our next lunch is on Saturday, February 28

MAPLE SURGERY - February Update

maplesurgery.enquiries@nhs.net | 01954 780442

Staffing

There has been one change within the Reception/Admin team this month; we were successful when advertising for a new team member recently.

We are happy to report that the new team member has started with us and is settling in nicely.

Planned Closure Days for Training

Tuesday 17th February 2pm to 6pm.

Flu and Covid vaccinations

We have now finished vaccinating patients with the Covid vaccine, however, we still have some flu vaccine available for anyone who is eligible, so if you know anyone who is looking to be vaccinated, please point them in our direction.

We have signed up to undertake the Covid vaccinations for the Spring and Autumn boosters, so will be making contact with eligible patients again around March time.

Refurbishment Works

The contractors are now on site and have started in earnest following a soft start before their Christmas break.

We are expecting the builders to be on site until around the end of March 2026.

A summary of the works involved in the project; decoration throughout, converting the podiatry and therapy rooms into clinical spaces, converting one of the small rooms adjacent to the nurse room into a utility room, significant upgrade to the nurse room, hand washing facilities to be replaced, toilets to be upgraded, and some external works.

We recognise that there will be some disruptions at points during the process, but the contractors have already shown a willingness to work with the Practice team to keep them to a minimum.

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*term time only

Taster session Free, Further sessions - under 1 £2, over 1 £3, 2 or more children £4 refreshments and snacks included

We look forward to seeing you at our next session

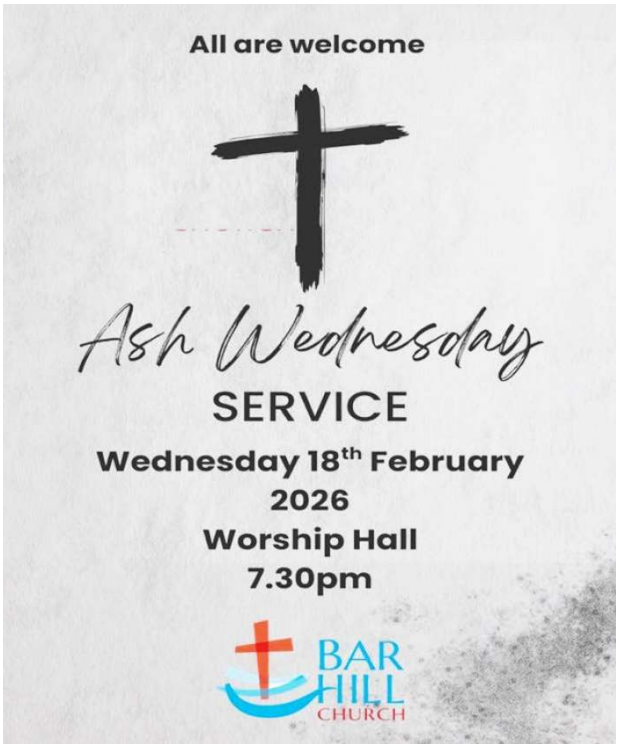
Bar Hill Church News

Services for January may be viewed on our website barhillchurch.org.uk

Did you make any resolutions at the start of this year?

I wonder how they are going? I usually begin the New Year with great plans to eat more healthily, exercise more, go to bed earlier…..the list goes on, but by February, I've usually accepted that my will power isn't as great as I would hope and the chocolate is just too tempting.

In the church, February contains Valentine's Day, when we remember the power of sacrificial love for one another.



It also marks Ash Wednesday, the start of Lent, a time of prayer, fasting and repentance before the joy of Easter.

Christians are invited to mark their forehead with a sign of the cross, made out of the ash of palm crosses. This symbolic act reminds us of the fragility of life, the resurrection hope of Easter and our need for fresh starts, not just in January but every day.

My will power needs some work, but I'm grateful for new beginnings and the promise of hope and love. *Rev'd Wendy*

Contacts

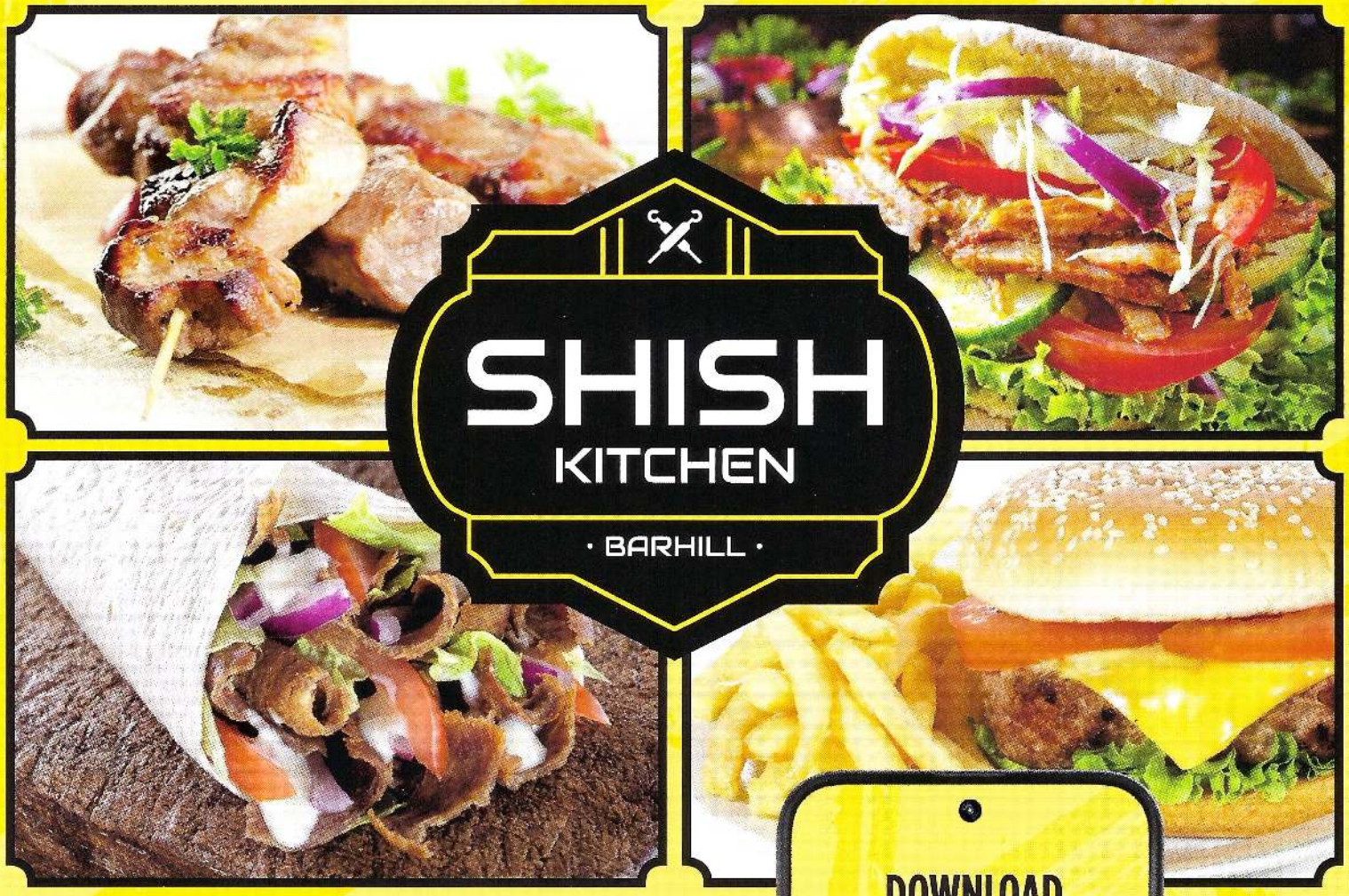
Church Office: Ian Farr, 01954 206120, church.office@barhillchurch.org.uk

Enquiries about hiring space for an event should be directed to Ian.

Minister: Revd Wendy Wale 07780 828865

minister@barhillchurch.org.uk

follow us on



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